



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

28 FEB 1996

CECW-ON/CEPR-O

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS

SUBJECT: National Sign Standards Policy Letter 95-04 -- Required Purchase of Prison Made Products

1. Reference:


- a. 18 U.S.C. § 4124
- b. Federal Acquisition Regulation, Part 8.6

2. Some confusion has arisen at the field level concerning whether U.S. Army Corps of Engineers construction contractors are required to purchase signs from Federal Prison Industries, Inc. (UNICOR). Pursuant to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 8.602(a), agencies are required to purchase supplies of the classes listed in the Schedule of Products made in Federal Penal Correction Institutions (referred to in this subpart as "the Schedule") at prices not to exceed current market prices. The HQUSACE position is that on all Civil Works construction contracts, Corps contractors are not required to purchase signs from UNICOR as such purchases are not mandatory for the contractor.

3. Additionally, confusion has arisen over whether the Corps must purchase sign fabrication materials from UNICOR for the purpose of manufacturing signs in-house. FAR 8.602(a) only requires the Corps to purchase items from UNICOR which appear in its schedule. To the extent that sign fabrication materials do not appear on the schedule, these materials may be procured from other sources pursuant to the priorities identified in FAR 8.001. UNICOR's schedule may be obtained by contacting Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated, 320 First Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20534, 202-783-7053.

4. The Headquarters point of contact for this matter is George Tabb. Mr. Tabb may be reached at 202-761-1791.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
STANLEY G. GENEVA  
Major General, USA  
Director of Civil Works